

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 DAMASC 01037 221431Z  
ACTION CU-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 /029 W  
-----116416 222124Z /66

R 221005Z FEB 78  
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6964  
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS  
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY RABAT  
USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 1037

DEPT FOR CU/ARTS & CU/NEA; PARIS FOR ARS; USIA FOR  
IOP/DA & INA

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: SCUL, CY  
SUBJECT: CLASSICAL GUITARIST WILLIAM MATTHEWS

1. WILLIAM MATTHEWS, CLASSICAL GUITARIST, IOP/DA AND  
CU/ARTS FOUR PERFORMANCES.
2. QP-E, ED-NA, AR-VG, RO-G
3. PROGRAM CONSISTED OF THREE CONCERTS; TV TAPING AND

INTERVIEW; VISITS TO ARAB CONSERVATORY, MUSIC CLASSES,  
LOCAL MUSICAL PERSONALITIES. FEB 16. AUDIENCE OF 220 AT  
DAMASCUS'AL KABBANI THEATRE INCLUDED DEPUTY FOREIGN  
MINISTER & OTHER SARG AND UNIVERSITY OFFICIALS BUT MOSTLY  
COMPOSED OF STUDENTS. DAMASCENE AUDIENCE, USUALLY  
DIFFIDENT ABOUT WESTERN CLASSICAL MUSIC, WARMED TO MATTHEWS'  
OFFERINGS INCLUDING THE LESS FAMILIAR AMERICAN  
PIBFE HE PERFORMED. MATTHEWS SPENT EVENING AFTER CONCERT  
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COMPARING TECHNIQUES WITH CONSERVATORY GUITAR TEACHER AND SIX  
STUDENTS. AT RESIDENCE FEB 17 MATTHEWS GAVE FULL CONCERT FOLLOWED  
BY RECEPTION FOR SELECT AUDIENCE OF ABOUT 100 SYRIANS AND  
MEMBERS OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS. INTIMATE DRAWING  
ROOM ATMOSPHERE SUITED MATTHEWS' ELEGANT RENDITIONS  
UNLIKE RATHER DRAFTY AND NOISY THEATER OF NATIONAL  
LIBRARY IN ALEPPO, WHERE OVER 300 ALEPPINES ATTENDED

FEB 19 CONCERT. OCCASION ENABLED PAO AND CAO RENEW OLD AND MAKE NEW CONTACTS (INCLUDING RECTOR AND ASSISTANT RECTOR ALEPPO UNIVERSITY WITH WHOM CULTURAL AGREEMENT AND UNIVERSITY LINKAGES DISCUSSED IN SOME DETAIL). TV TAPING CONSISTED OF FOUR SELECTIONS (TOTAL APPROX 20-25 MINUTES) INCLUDING ONE BY FREDERIC HAND AND INTERVIEW WITH LOCAL TV PERSONALITY. MATTHEWS IS FIRST AMERICAN TO APPEAR IN PERFORMANCE ON SYRIAN TV SINCE RESUMPTION DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS.

4. MATTHEWS ENERGETIC, COOPERATIVE, UNTEMPERAMENTAL. HE READILY ACCEPTED SYRIAN INVITATIONS AND OUR CONSIDERABLE DEMANDS ON HIS TIME, MAKING EXTREMELY GOOD IMPRESSIONS ON ALL WHOM HE MET HERE.  
MURPHY

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Concepts:** CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014